

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12097

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS)

SUBJ: DEPSECDEF VISIT TO GUAM AND SAIPAN/TNIAN

DEPT PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN AND DOTA; COM 12 FOR AMB WILLIAMS
SECDEF FOR ISA/PA/I AND)

FROM ABRAMOWITZ

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY REPORT OF DEPSECDEF VISIT TO
GUAM, SAIPAN, AND TINIAN SEPTEMBER 26 AND 27 PREPARED IN
CONJUNCTION WITH COMNAV MARIANAS

2. SUMMARY: VISIT ENDED ON AN EXPRESSION BY THE SECRE-
TARY OF HIS STRONG OPTIMISM FOR SUCCESSFUL STATUS
NEGOTIATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR MILITARY PROBLEMS. TIME
SPENT PRIMARILY IN INFORMAL BRIEFS BY NAVY, AIR FORCE,
AND TRUST TERRITORY OFFICIALS AND DRIECT CONVERSATIONS
WITH LOCAL BUSINESS, POLITICAL AND CHURCH LEADERS.
DEPSECDEF FIRMLY DEFENDED MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, PARTICU-
LARLY FOR LAND, BUT WITH EQUAL FORCE ASSURED LOCAL LEADERS
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OF INTENT TO ACCOMODATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ALL LEGIT-

IMATE COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS WITHIN MILITARY PURVIEW. VISIT TO TINIAN WAS UNEVENTFUL AND PRODUCED NOT EVEN ONE PLACARD. FINALLY, IN REPLY TO MR BOB JONES' CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE OF RANCH ON TINIAN, THE SECRETARY PLAINLY STATED MILITARY DEVELOPMENT THERE WOULD BE DELIBERATE, PHASED OVER A CONSIDERABLE TIME PERIOD AND NOT SO PERVASIVE AS TO PRECLUDE CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF THIS TYPE.

3. WARM, CORDIAL VISITS WITH GUAM OFFICIALS TOUCHED UPON ANTICIPATED TOPICS WITH LITTLE CONTROVERSY OR DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ARISING. MEETING WITH GOV GUAM WAS MARKED BY MUTUAL EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION. GOVERNOR CONCERNED BY POSSIBLE LOSS OF REDUCTION OF IMPACTED SCHOOL AID AND ABSENCE OF GREATER FEDERAL PRESENCE ON GUAM. TWO SIGNIFICANT ISSUES MENTIONED IN MEETING WITH GUAM LEGISLATURE WERE ALLEGED IMPROPER HOLDING OF LAND AND UNWILLINGNESS TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF SCHOOL COSTS BY MILITARY. SECRETARY'S RESPONSE WAS FIRM THAT MILITARY WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD CERTAIN LANDS DEEMED NECESSARY FOR CONTINGENCY AND THAT OUR EVALUATION AS TO WHAT WAS NECESSARY WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN ON GOOD FAITH. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, CLEAR INTENT OF MILITARY TO FULLY SUPPORT LEGITIMATE COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS THROUGH LEASING, LICENSING, AND OTHER METHODS OF JOINT OPERATION. MOST LEGISLATORS POINTEDLY SEPARATED THEMSELVES FROM ANY DISSIDENT OPINIONS AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY. EVEN THOSE FEW WHO WERE CRITICAL WERE NOT EAGER TO SEE ANY REDUCTION IN MILITARY PRESENCE.

4. BREAKFAST WITH AREA BUSINESSMEN AND DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMICS OF GUAM AND TTPI PROMPTED IDEA THAT A REVIEW OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS THAT PRESENTLY INHIBIT US INVESTMENT WAS NEEDED. AT THIS MEETING SECRETARY DISCUSSED WITH BOB JONES THE POSSIBILITY OF THE KEN JONES RANCH STAYING IN OPERATION AFTER NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCLUDED. SINCE NO LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY WERE PRESENTLY BEING BUDGETED FOR WORK ON TINIAN BASE AND PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH ACTIVITY WOULD NOT SET WELL WITH OUR FRIENDS IN JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES, SECRETARY CLEMENTS MADE IT CLEAR TO BOB JONES THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PLANNED

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A DELIBERATE, PHASED DEVELOPMENT OF TINIAN RATHER THAN AN EARLY LARGE SCALE EFFORT. JONES SAID THIS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY HIS PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING.

5. TT BRIEFINGS RAISED NO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BUT STRESSED THAT JAPANESE ECONOMIC INVESTMENT INTERESTS WERE INCREASING WHILE US PRIVATE INVESTMENT WAS STEADY BUT AT A MINIMAL LEVEL. SECRETARY WAS IMPRESSED WITH

GENERALLY SALUTARY FEELING FOR US PRESENCE IN THE AREA
AND NORTHERN MARIANAS IN PARTICULAR.

6. LUNCHEON FOR TWENTY-ONE HOSTED BY TT WAS WARM AND
CORDIAL AND CONVEYED TO SECRETARY A DEFINITE FEELING OF
OPTIMISM ON SAIPAN AND AMONG MPSC MEMBERS CONCERNING OUT-
COME OF THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. SENATORS E PANGELINAN,
O BORJA, MPSC VICE CHMN SANTOS AS WELL AS OTHER MPSC
MEMBERS V CAMACHO AND LATER B HOFSCHEIDER ALL RELAYED
A NOTE OF ANTICIPATION AND DESIRE TO JOIN THE US FAMILY
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. AFTER FINAL CHECK WITH DISTRICT OFFICIALS, SEN
PANGELINAN, AND STATUS LNO, HELO VISIT TO TINIAN WAS
MADE. PARTY AERIALY VIEWED ISLAND, SAT DOWN AT BOMB
PITS AND THEN AT HARBOR AREA. PARTY, WITH SEN PANGELINAN
AS GUIDE, WALKED TO HOUSE OF TAGA WHERE TINIAN COUNCIL
MEMBERS, INCLUDING SPKR SYLVESTER CRUZ AND SISTAD REP
CHONG MET AND WELCOMED THEM. THERE WERE NO PLACARDS NOR
ANY CONFRONTATION (MAYOR MENDOLIA, WHO WAS SUPPOSED
TO APPEAR, DID NOT SHOW) AND VISIT WAS VERY HARMONIOUS.

8. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL FEELING OF OPTIMISM CONCERN-
ING GUAM AND FUTURE OF MARIANAS AND NEGOTIATIONS, DEPSECDEF
NOTED WITH INTEREST THE SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
GUAM AND THE N MARIANAS. THE FACT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE MARIANAS ARE ALREADY CAUSING GUAM TO POSE QUESTIONS,
SEEK NEW GOALS AND REQUIRE A DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP WITH
BOTH THE US AND ITS NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH IS OBVIOUS.
NOTHING HAPPENS INDEPENDENTLY ON GUAM OR IN SAIPAN/TINIAN
WITHOUT A REACTION BY THE OTHER, A FACT THAT MUST BE
ACCOUNTED FOR IN ALL FUTURE PLANS OR ACTIONS. SOME SPECIFIC
RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW IN TRIP REPORT.
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